Robert Mancini English 9 5/19/10

There are many rules that we have to follow from our parents when we are teenagers. Some of them we may not like, but we still have to obey our parents. Most of the rules are implemented to teach us and keep us safe.

There are definitely rules in my household that I have to abide by. There is no swearing and I am to respect my parents or elders. I have to feed our dog, everyday. I put out the garbage for pickup Monday nights. I also have to make my bed every day and clean my room once a week. I am not allowed to ride my mini bike without a helmet. I am also not allowed to go into my step-dad’s gun safe and that’s non-negotiable. I have to always let my parents know where I am at all times.

Some of the rules above are flexible depending on what’s going on at the time. My bedtime can change on school nights and weekends. If I’m busy during the day or night someone else feeds the dog for me. In a similar situation if I am not there on a Monday evening someone puts the garbage out. There are a couple of rules that are not flexible. I must use my helmet when I am riding my mini bike at all times!!! I am also never to touch the gun safe! These rules are designed to teach me obedience, responsibility and safety. I do feel that most of these rules are reasonable and my parents have my best interest at heart. The only rule that bugs me sometimes is the no swearing rule. When I get anxious or angry I tend to let out a few swear words. I’m not proud of that, but it just happens. I do feel that I can speak to my parents about my thoughts.

There are some consequences of breaking the rules. I could be grounded for a specific time. I also had my video game privileges taken away, early bedtime implemented and even had soap in my mouth only one time. I do believe these consequences were fair and made me think about my actions. Most of the time I do like to follow the rules and be appropriate knowing what is expected of me.

My mom mentioned that she had a curfew of 9 p.m. on school nights and 10 p.m. on weekends. She also had a bedtime rule for school nights. My mom had the same rule I have now on respecting authority and no swearing. Wouldn’t you know my mom got soap in her mouth once or twice too. They say the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. My step-dad also wasn’t allowed out on school nights. One of his rules were you had to had to earn money for the extras. He had to feed the dogs, cows, chickens and pigs daily. When he said swear words he got a cake of soup in his mouth. My mom basically played the rules also and her consequences she received were even fair if she didn’t like them. My step-dad said he was a good kid and he didn’t think his consequences were fair especially the soup in his mouth. I’m not so sure about that one.

Parents have the responsibility of teaching their children right from wrong and also to respect others. Rules and consequences have an important role in accomplishing those things. They help shape you as a person in the present and the future. When I have children of my own I plan to also teach them through rules, consequences and lots of love.